

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 3, 7, 18 and 19 without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter contained therein.

Please add claims 21-26 as indicated below.

Please amend claims 1, 2, 4-6, 8-17 and 20 as follows:

1. (currently amended) A method of processing source image data for

~~rendering instructing an output device in providing~~ an image having a plurality of pixels, each pixel forming a data set, the data set for each pixel having a predetermined number of data bits, the method comprising the steps of:

~~associating~~ coupling image information ~~with~~ to each pixel of the image, the image information for each pixel including ~~two at least one additional~~ image-information data bits ~~coupled to the data set of the pixel, the additional data bit having two states~~ a first bit of the image-information bits indicating whether color processing or monochrome processing should be performed for rendering the pixel and a second bit of the image-information data bits indicating a type of halftone processing that should be performed for rendering the pixel; and

~~assessing the image information for each pixel; and~~

~~rendering each pixel one or more pixels of the image based on~~ according to the first and second image-information bits that are associated with ~~coupled to each pixel.~~

2. (currently amended) The method of claim 1, ~~wherein~~ in which the step of the type of halftone processing includes one of color image halftone processing, text/edge halftone processing, monochrome halftone processing and white ~~rendering the one or more pixels of the image further includes using a predetermined first rendering option to print the one or more pixels when the image information bit is in a first state.~~

3. (canceled).

4. (currently amended) The method of claim 1, ~~wherein~~ which the source image data is derived from a graphics device interface (GDI) in a computer, and ~~the steps of wherein associating~~ coupling the image information is performed being carried out on ~~an~~ the output of the GDI.

5. (currently amended) The method of claim 1, ~~wherein~~ which the step of rendering each pixel of the image based on one or more pixels according to the image information bits is performed by ~~carried out in~~ a print driver.

6. (currently amended) A method of processing source image data for rendering source image data for ~~instructing~~ an output device in providing an image having a plurality of pixels, each pixel forming a data set, the data set for each pixel having a predetermined number of data bits, the method comprising the steps of:

~~associating~~ coupling image information with ~~to~~ each pixel, the image information for each pixel including at least two ~~image information~~ additional data bits coupled to the data set of the pixel, a first bit of the image information bits indicating whether color processing or monochrome processing should be performed for rendering the pixel and a second bit of the image information data bits indicating a type of halftone processing that should be performed for rendering the pixel; and

~~assessing the image information for each pixel; and~~

rendering each pixel ~~the pixels~~ of the source image using an image rendering process that is based on the first and second ~~determined by the image~~ information bits associated with ~~coupled to~~ each pixel.

7. (canceled)

8. (currently amended) The method of claim 7, ~~wherein which the type of halftone process includes one of halftoning process in the rendering step selected from the following:~~ error diffusion and matrix thresholding.

9. (currently amended) The method of claim 6, ~~wherein which the type of halftone processing includes one of color image halftone processing, text/edge halftone processing, monochrome halftone processing and white~~ at least two additional data bits of the image information, when assessed, causes each pixel to be rendered using an image rendering process selected from the following: ~~monochrome pixel halftoning, text and edge pixel halftoning, color image pixel halftoning, and white.~~

10. (currently amended) The method of claim 6, ~~wherein which the step of rendering each pixel~~ the pixels of the source image using an image rendering process further includes the step of:

selecting a first ~~halftone~~ halftoning process when the image-information bits ~~are~~ is in a first state,

selecting a second ~~halftone~~ halftoning process when the image-information bits ~~are~~ is in a second state,

selecting a third ~~halftone~~ halftoning process when the image-information bits ~~are~~ is in a third state; and

selecting a fourth ~~halftone~~ halftoning process when the image-information bits ~~are~~ is in a fourth state.

11. (currently amended) An image-rendering system for ~~rendering~~ instructing a printer in providing an image having a plurality of pixels, the image data for each pixel being a pixel data set having a predetermined number of data bits, the source image data for the image including a plurality of pixel data sets, the image rendering system comprising:

a data storage device for temporarily storing the pixel data sets of the image,

~~an image-information associator~~~~associating software~~~~operatively coupled to the data storage device~~ for associating at least two~~one or more~~ image-information bits with each pixel data set ~~in the data storage device~~, a first bit of the image-information bits indicating whether color processing or monochrome processing should be performed for rendering the pixel and a second bit of the image-information data bits indicating a type of halftone processing that should be performed for rendering the pixel; and

~~a print processing device~~~~means responsive to the pixel data sets and the image-information bits associated with each pixel data set~~ by rendering each pixel~~the pixels based on the first and second image-information bits associated with the pixel~~~~of the image using an image rendering process selected by the image information associated with each pixel data set.~~

12. (currently amended) The image-rendering system of claim 11, ~~wherein~~~~in which~~ the ~~image-information associator~~~~said associating software for associating the image information bits distinguishes between pixels of the following type: text pixels, edge pixels, monochrome pixels, and color pixels~~ when associating the image-information bits with a pixel.

13. (currently amended) The image-rendering system of claim 11, ~~wherein~~~~in which~~ each pixel has an associated data set that has a most significant bit and a least significant bit, and ~~wherein the image-information bits are being further associated with the~~~~coupled to a side of the pixel data set having a most significant bit of a data set associated with a pixel.~~

14. (currently amended) The image-rendering system of claim 11, ~~wherein~~~~in which~~ each pixel has an associated data set that has a most significant bit and a least significant bit, and ~~wherein the image-information bits are being further associated with the~~~~coupled to a side of the pixel data set having a least significant bit of a data set associated with a pixel.~~

15. (currently amended) The image-rendering system of claim 11, ~~wherein~~~~in which~~ the image rendering system is part of~~source~~~~image comes from a computer, the computer~~

~~including a print driver having a data storage means, software means, and a print processing means therein.~~

16. (currently amended) The image-rendering system of claim 11, wherein the image rendering system is part of being disposed in a printer.

17. (currently amended) The image-rendering system of claim 11, wherein the image rendering system is part of being disposed in a printer controller.

18. (canceled)

19. (canceled)

20. (currently amended) The image-rendering system of claim 11, wherein which the image-information bits comprise comprises eight bits, at least one of the eight bits being associated with each pixel data set in the data storage device.

Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to enter the following new claims:

21. (new) The method of claim 1, wherein when the first bit of the image-information data bits indicates color processing, the second bit of the image-information data bits indicates one of color image halftone processing and text/edge halftone processing.

22. (new) The method of claim 1, wherein when the first bit of the image-information data bits indicates monochrome processing, the second bit of the image-information data bits indicates one of monochrome halftone processing and white.

23. (new) The method of claim 6, wherein when the first bit of the image-information bits indicates color processing, the second bit of the image-information bits indicates one of color image halftone processing and text/edge halftone processing.

24. (new) The method of claim 6, wherein when the first bit of the image-information bits indicates monochrome processing, the second bit of the image-information bits indicates one of monochrome halftone processing and white.

25. (new) The image-rendering system of claim 11, wherein when the first bit of the image-information bits indicates color processing, the second bit of the image-information bits indicates one of color image halftone processing and text/edge halftone processing.

26. (new) The image-rendering system of claim 11, wherein when the first bit of the image-information bits indicates monochrome processing, the second bit of the image-information bits indicates one of monochrome halftone processing and white.